

Classification of Water Uses in Hawaii (HAR §11-54-3))

Inland Waters

Class 1	It is the objective of class 1 waters that these waters remain in their natural state as nearly as possible with an absolute minimum of pollution from any human caused source. To the extent possible, the wilderness character of these areas shall be protected. Waste discharge into these water is prohibited. Any conduct which results in a demonstrable increase in the levels of point or nonpoint source contamination in class 1 waters is prohibited.
Class 1a	The uses to be protected in class 1.a. waters are scientific and educational purposes, protection of native breeding stock, baseline references from which human-caused changes can be measured, compatible recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and other nondegrading uses which are compatible with the protection of the ecosystems associated with waters of this class.
Class 1b	The uses to be protected in class 1.b. waters are domestic water supplies, food processing, protection of native breeding stock, the support and propagation of aquatic life, baseline references from which human-caused changes can be measured, scientific and education purposes, compatible recreation and aesthetic enjoyment.
Class 2	The objective of class 2 waters is to protect their use for recreation purposes, the support and propagation of aquatic life, agricultural and industrial water supplies, shipping, and navigation. The uses to be protected in the class of waters are all uses compatible with the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and with recreation in and on these waters. These waters shall not act as receiving waters for any discharge which has not received the best degree of treatment or control compatible with the criteria established for this class. No new treated sewage discharges shall be permitted within estuaries.

Marine Waters

Class AA	It is the objective of class AA waters that these waters remain in their natural pristine state as nearly as possible with an absolute minimum of pollution or alteration of water quality from any human-caused source or actions. To the extent practicable, the wilderness character of these areas shall be protected. No zones of mixing shall be permitted in this class. The uses to be protected in this class of waters are oceanographic research, the support and propagation of shellfish and other marine life, conservation of coral reefs and wilderness areas, compatible recreation, and aesthetic enjoyment.
Class A	It is the objective of class A waters that their use for recreational purposes and aesthetic enjoyment be protected. Any other use shall be permitted as long as it is compatible with the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and with recreation in and on these waters. These waters shall not act as receiving waters for any discharge which has not received the best degree of treatment or control compatible with the criteria established for this class. No new industrial discharges shall be permitted within embayments (with exceptions as noted by rule).

Marine Bottom Ecosystems

Class I	It is the objective of class I marine bottom ecosystems that they remain as nearly as possible in their natural pristine state with an absolute minimum of pollution from any human-induced source. Uses of marine bottom ecosystems in this class are passive human uses without intervention or alteration, allowing the perpetuation and preservation of the marine bottom in a most natural state, such as for nonconsumptive scientific research (demonstration, observation or monitoring only), nonconsumptive education, aesthetic enjoyment, passive activities, and preservation.
Class II	It is the objective of class II marine bottom ecosystems that their use for protection including propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and for recreational purposes no be limited in any way. The uses to be protected in this class of marine bottom ecosystems are all uses compatible with the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and with recreation.

Waterbody Class, Designated Uses, and Current Tools

	Inland Waters			Marine Waters		Marine Bottom	
Designated Use	Class 1a	Class 1b	Class 2	Class AA	Class A	Class I	Class II
Natural Waters							
Native Aquatic Life	HSBP Score >60% ref	HSBP Score >60% ref					
Aquatic Life		HSBP metrics Fish tissue contaminant	HSBP metrics Fish tissue contaminant	Fish tissue contaminant	Fish tissue contaminant		
Recreation	Ent/Clost Posting Rule	Ent/Clost Posting Rule	Ent/Clost Posting Rule	Ent/Clost Posting Rule	Ent/Clost Posting Rule		
Aesthetics	HSVP elements HSBP metrics photos	HSVP elements HSBP metrics photos					
Wildlife							
Drinking Water		DWS					
Food Processing		DWS	DWS				
Agricultural Water Source							
Industrial Water Source							
Navigation							

Current Tools

Hawaii Stream Bioassessment Protocol (HSBP)
 Hawaii Stream Visual Protocol (HSVP)
 BEACH monitoring (Ent/Clost Posting Decision Rule)
Water Quality Criteria - narrative and numeric